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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A method for a service provider to obtain a medical record of a patient from a covered entity in a form allowing said service provider to quickly disclose said medical record to a third party without restriction by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, the method comprising the following steps carried out by a service provider that is not the patient or a covered entity:

- A. inducing said patient to receive said medical record from a covered entity;
- B. receiving said medical record from said patient in a storage format, without data processing said medical record;
- C. storing said medical record in a memory in a form from which said medical record can be reproduced in said storage format, without data processing said medical record;
- D. obtaining agreement in advance with the patient that the service provider shall transmit said medical record to a third party under defined conditions; and
- E. transmitting said medical record to a third party when the defined conditions occur, without data processing said medical record.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising said service provider inducing said patient to obtain possession of said medical record from said covered entity in a first format and said service provider inducing said patient to convert said medical record to said storage format, wherein said storage format is different from said first format.

3. (Canceled)

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4. (Canceled).
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said memory is a portable medium.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said portable medium is an optical disc.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising retrieving said medical record stored in said memory remotely through a computer communications network.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising said service provider inducing said patient to update said medical record stored in said memory.
9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising said service provider inducing said patient to provide other information that is not a medical record, and storing said other information in said memory.
10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said other information comprises information selected from the group consisting of a living will, investment portfolio, life insurance and a credit arrangement.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said medical record is stored in a hierarchical storage system.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said medical record is assigned to at least one file folder, said file folder containing medical records sharing at least one common attribute.

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13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said file folder is assigned to at least one file template, said file template containing file folders sharing at least one common attribute.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein a plurality of said file templates are stored in said storage system to form a general medical and personal information file of said patient.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said file folder further comprises at least one sub-folder.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein said hierarchical storage system provides hierarchical storage access.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein access to a special file template is on a different basis than access to at least one other file template.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein said special file template is an emergency file template.

19. (Currently amended) A method to induce conversion of a medical record of a patient from a covered entity to a form allowing quick disclosure of said medical record to a third party without restriction by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, the method comprising:

A. a service provider that is not the patient or a covered entity, inducing said patient to obtain possession of said medical record from a covered entity;

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B. said service provider inducing said patient to convert said medical record into a storage format; and

C. said service provider inducing said patient to store said medical record in a memory in said storage forma without data processing said medical record by the service provider.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising providing said patient a system for converting said medical record into a storage format.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said system is provided through a computer communications network.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein said system is provided in the form of software.

23. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said memory is a portable medium.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein said portable medium is an optical disc.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising said service provider inducing said patient to update said medical record stored in said memory without data processing said medical record by the service provider.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising said service provider inducing said patient to obtain other information that is not a medical record, and to store said other information in said memory.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said other information comprises

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information selected from the group consisting of a living will, investment portfolio, life insurance and a credit arrangement.

28. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein said medical record is stored in a hierarchical storage system.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said hierarchical storage system provides hierarchical storage access.

30. (Currently amended) A medical and personal information system for obtaining and storing a medical record of a patient from a covered entity in a form allowing quick disclosure of said medical record to a third party without restriction by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, the system comprising:

A. a communication interface provided at least in part by a service provider that is not the patient or a covered entity, said interface being adapted for inducing said patient to obtain possession of said medical record of said patient from a covered entity; and

B. a data storage device provided at least in part by a service provider that is not the patient or a covered entity, said storage device comprising a memory adapted for storing said medical record in a form from which it can be reproduced in a storage format, wherein said storage device is configured to store said medical record without data processing said medical record.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said communication interface is adapted to induce said patient to obtain possession of said medical record in a first format and to induce said patient to convert said medical record to said storage format, wherein said storage format is different from said first format.

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32. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said communication interface is adapted for acquiring said medical record from said patient in said storage format.

33. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said communication interface is adapted to obtain the agreement of said patient to allow transmission of said medical record to a health care provider under defined conditions.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein communication interface is adapted to obtain said agreement before a defined condition arises.

35. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said memory is a portable medium.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35, wherein said portable medium is an optical disc.

37. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said communication interface and said data storage device are operatively connected to enable said medical record stored in said memory to be retrieved remotely through a computer communications network.

38. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said memory is adapted to a hierarchical storage system.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein said hierarchical storage system comprises a general medical information file of said patient.

40. (Original) The system of claim 39, wherein said general medical information file comprises a file template.

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41. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein said file template comprises a file folder.

42. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein said file folder comprises a sub-folder.

43. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein said data storage device provides hierarchical storage access.

44. (Original) The system of claim 40, wherein said general medical information file comprising a special file template accessed on a different basis from said general medical information file.

45. (Original) The system of claim 44, wherein said special file template is an emergency file template.

46. (Original) The system of claim 44, wherein said special file template is stored in a first memory and said general medical information file is stored in a second memory wherein said first and second memories are different optical discs.

47. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said memory is adapted for storing other information of the patient that is not a medical record.

48. (Original) The system of claim 47, wherein said other information comprises information selected from the group consisting of a living will, an investment portfolio record, a life insurance record and a credit arrangement.

49. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein said communication interface is adapted to induce said patient to update said medical record stored in said memory.

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50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said medical record is made by the covered entity before said inducing.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said inducing occurs before the patient obtains possession of the medical record.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the patient obtains possession of the medical record before said acquiring.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the patient has a computer with Internet access, and said inducing further comprises said service provider inducing said patient to obtain possession in said patient's computer of said medical record in digital form from a covered entity.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising said service provider inducing said patient to acquire said medical record in a digital storage format without intervention of any entity or person other than said covered entity.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said medical record is made by the covered entity before each said inducing.

56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said inducing the patient to obtain possession of a medical record occurs before the patient obtains possession of the medical record.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the patient obtains possession of the medical record before the patient stores the medical record.

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58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the patient has a computer with Internet access, and said inducing further comprises said service provider inducing said patient to obtain possession in said patient's computer of said medical record in digital form from a covered entity.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising said service provider inducing said patient to acquire said medical record in a digital storage format without intervention of any entity or person other than said covered entity.

60. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the communication interface is adapted for inducing said patient to obtain possession of a medical record after said medical record is made by the covered entity.

61. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the communication interface is adapted for inducing said patient to obtain possession of a medical record before the patient obtains possession of the medical record.

62. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the communication interface is adapted for obtaining possession of a medical record by the patient before the data storage device stores said medical record.

63. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30, wherein the communication interface is adapted for inducing said patient to obtain possession, in a computer possessed by said patient, of said medical record in digital form from a covered entity.

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64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the communication interface is adapted for inducing said patient to acquire said medical record in a digital storage format without intervention of any entity or person other than said covered entity.